

# ISAC Meeting – December 7-9, 2010

## ACTION OR INFORMATION ITEM

**SPONSOR (Name/Email):** Peter Alpert / palpert@bio.umass.edu, for the Research Subcommittee

**TOPIC:** EDRR to cryptic invasions: detecting and responding to invasive genotypes

**SPEAKER (Name/E-mail):** Laura Meyerson / laura\_meyerson@uri.edu

### **1. DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:**

Dr. Meyerson is a biologist at the University of Rhode Island and a leading expert on cryptic invasions, the harmful spread of introduced genotypes with species. Her own research has shown that the puzzling expansion of the native species *Phragmites australis* in the eastern U.S. was actually due to the introduction of a European genotype able to outcompete, not only native genotypes of the same species, but also other native species, reducing biological diversity and altering ecological function in Atlantic wetlands. As a Leopold Fellow of the Ecological Society of America, she is trained in the communication of science to policy makers and the public, and her presentation will explain and document the larger issue of invasion at the level of the genotype in compelling fashion. She has kindly agreed to provide her own travel support.

### **2. WHY IS THIS ITEM IMPORTANT TO NISC / ISAC?**

Federal policy on invasive species, as specified in the standing executive order on invasive species, defines invasive species as species that have been introduced and proven harmful. This definition does not consider new, introduced genotypes of existing, introduced or native species, despite the fact that some such genotypes have proven highly invasive in the U.S., as Dr. Meyerson will demonstrate. Expanding early detection and rapid response to the level of genotypes within species, especially in the cases of genotypes known to have been harmful elsewhere, is required to forestall such biological invasions. More explicit recognition of this in policy will encourage the development of methods and programs for more effective EDRR.

### **3. PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY NISC / ISAC ON THIS ITEM:**

None known.

### **4. ACTION REQUESTED OF NISC / ISAC:**

It is hoped that this presentation and the subsequent discuss will lead ISAC to consider a recommendation to NISC that federal agencies seek to prevent the introduction and spread of new, invasive genotypes within existing species.

### **5. ALTERNATIVES:**

None.

### **6. ATTACHMENTS:**

None.